

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets provide formal drawings for Figs. 7, 8A and 8B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings are amended. No new matter is added because the drawings are amended only to add a legend. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Giesy and Young during the March 27, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of a summary of the substance of the personal interview is contained in the following remarks.

The Office Action, in paragraph 7, states that claims 10-17, 19 and 20 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the allowance of these claims. Further, the Office Action, in paragraph 6, indicates that claims 2 and 3 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability but respectfully submit that at least independent claim 1, from which these claims depend, is allowable for the reasons set forth below.

The Office Action, in paragraph 1, objects to Figs. 7, 8A and 8B under MPEP §608.02(g) as requiring a legend. During the March 27 interview, Applicants' representatives presented amended drawings. The Examiners agreed that the amended drawings would obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by "Holographic memory with localized recording", Applied Optics, Vol. 40, No. 23, August 10, 2001 to Moser and Psaltis (hereinafter "Moser"). The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moser. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites hologram erasing method comprising erasing a predetermined hologram by irradiating a recording region of the predetermined hologram recorded in an optical recording medium with a reference light beam and a signal light beam which holds random pattern data at the same time.

During the March 27 interview, Applicants' representatives argued that Moser does not teach, nor would it have suggested, irradiating a reference beam and signal beam being modulated and holding random pattern data. The Examiner agreed that Moser does not teach, nor would it have suggested, such a feature.

In further support of the arguments presented at the March 27 interview, Moser also does not teach, nor would it have suggested, a hologram erasing method comprising erasing a predetermined hologram by irradiating a recording region of the predetermined hologram recorded in an optical recording medium with a signal light beam, as positively recited in claim 1.

Moser teaches using an object beam and a reference beam comprising a recording beam and a sensitizing beam for activating optical recording materials. Moser further teaches the object beam being modulated by the SLM and irradiated on the recording medium, while the reference beam and sensitizing beam are irradiated from the same direction on the recording medium without passing through the SLM. Moser, however, does not teach, nor would it have suggested, erasing a predetermined hologram by irradiating a recording region of the predetermined hologram recorded in an optical recording medium with a reference light beam and a signal light beam.

The Office Action asserts, on page 2, that Moser teaches this feature. However, as noted throughout the Moser article, and specifically on page 3911, any interpretation of Moser is limited to a signal beam that only records by irradiating a holographic medium. Further, it would be unreasonable to assert that the sensitizing beam corresponds to a signal

beam, as recited in claim 1. Among other deficiencies, Moser does not teach, nor would it have suggested, a sensitizing beam that erases the holographic medium.

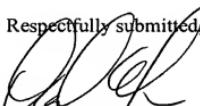
For at least the foregoing reasons, Moser cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Additionally, claims 4-9 and 18 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by Moser for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 4-9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) or 103(a) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, the applied prior art reference are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-9 and 18, in addition to the indication of allowability of claims 2 and 3, and the allowance of claims 10-17, 19 and 20, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:CJW/tbm

Attachments:

Replacement Drawing Sheets (2)

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